

Source Selection Document
Ambient Air Monitoring and Quality Assurance Support
SOL-NC-12-00021

Background

The U.S. EPA's ambient air monitoring and quality assurance program focuses on issues concerning implementation and operation of national, state/local, and tribal air monitoring networks. In addition, the program addresses the quality of the measurement data of the criteria air pollutants [carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), lead (Pb), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and various sizes of particulate matter (PM₁₀, PM_{10-2.5}, PM_{2.5})], chemical speciation of particulate matter, air toxic compounds, and ozone precursors required to be measured by the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) program. A principal objective of EPA's monitoring and quality assurance role is to ensure that the quality of the data collected and reported by state/local/tribal agencies, federal agencies, and other parties, can be quantified and can be used to support programs such as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the federal reference and equivalency program, and the nation's air quality management programs. Solid technical support is critical to the U.S. EPA's ability to support air quality management policies and programs, as this support will directly impact federal, state, and local air quality monitoring activities.

The efficient use of air quality data to obtain useful and defensible environmental protection results is also an important concern for EPA. The development and application of statistical techniques to meet this need involves areas, such as trends analysis, data screening, risk assessment, model performance evaluation, and comparisons with respect to the NAAQS. Key considerations in the successful implementation of these techniques are not limited simply to the validity of the statistical assumptions, but must address the feasibility of employing the technique, the practicality of implementation and how the underlying statistical framework relates to existing methodologies. In some cases, it may be necessary to develop and assemble alternative environmental indicators to help explain air quality trends and to reconcile these trends with emissions, modeling, health, and ecological information.

The Contractor shall provide support for the U.S. EPA's Ambient Air Monitoring and Quality Assurance programs including, but not limited to, the associated federal regulations and policies, outreach activities, technical guidance, field activities, special studies, program and quality system development, statistical support, desktop publishing support, web site design and operation and data retrievals.

A competitive solicitation was issued on June 28, 2012, and timely proposals were received from two (2) offerors on July 30, 2012. The solicitation specified that the Government would make award to the responsible offeror whose offer conforms to the solicitation and is most advantageous to the

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factors considered. For this solicitation, all evaluation factors other than cost or price when combined are significantly more important than cost or price. The six (6) evaluation factors were Technical Approach; Knowledge and Experience of Proposed Personnel; Past Performance; Quality Assurance/Quality Control; Mentor Protégé Participation; and Small and Disadvantaged Business Participation.

The Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) met on August 01 – August 03, 2012 and evaluated the two (2) proposals against the six (6) technical evaluation factors. The original Technical Evaluation Panel Report (TEPR) is filed under tab 11a. Both proposals were determined by the Source Selection Authority to be within the competitive range (see Competitive Range document filed under tab 14b). Interrogatories were issued to the offerors addressing each technical area where deficiencies were identified. Each of these interrogatories were addressed during negotiations. The TEP, Contract Specialist and Contracting Officer met on September 10, 2012 and evaluated the offeror's response to each technical interrogatory. After further review of each contractor's revised proposal the Contracting Officer and Contract Specialist determined that there was a need to clarify other identified weakness. Additional interrogatories were issued on November 20, 2012. The Contractors' responses were received on November 27, 2012 and further evaluated and rescored by the TEP on December 4, 2012.

The results of the technical review are reflected below along with the proposed cost-plus-fixed fee:

Offeror	Initial	2 nd TEPR	Final	
	CPFF /*Technical Score	CPFF /*Technical Score	CPFF /*Technical Score	
Battelle Memorial Institute	(b)(4)		\$ 17,012,353.00	100.00
(b)(4)				

*Out of a maximum possible score of 100.

Technical Discussion

The Technical Evaluation Panel conducted their review of the proposal in accordance with the procedures in EPAAR 1515.305. The full TEP met on August 01 – August 03, 2012, September 12, 2012 and December 04, 2012 to develop consensus Technical Scores for the Technical Proposals of Battelle Memorial Institute and (b)(4)

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Battelle Memorial Institute

1) Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle): Battelle received a rating of superior (b)(5) points out of 100. The following are excerpts taken from the Technical Evaluation Panel Report (TEPR). A complete list of strengths and weakness can be found in the TEPR.

A.) Technical Approach: Battelle received a rating of superior in most features for this criterion. **Some of the Technical Strengths identified in the TEPR are as follows:** (b)(4),(b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

B.) Knowledge and Experience of Proposed Personnel: Battelle received a (b)(4),(b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

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C.) Past Performance: Battelle received a rating of (b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

D.) Quality Assurance / Quality Control: (b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

E.) Mentor Protégé Participation: (b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

F.) Small & Disadvantaged Business Participation: Battelle received a rating of (b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(4),(b)(5)

(b)(4)

2.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

A.) Technical Approach: (b)(5)

most features for this criterion. (b)(5)

the TEPR are as follows: (b)(5)

identified in

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

B.) Knowledge and Experience of Proposed Personnel:

(b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

C.) Past Performance:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

D.) Quality Assurance / Quality Control:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

E.) Mentor Protégé Participation:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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(b)(5)

F.) Small and Disadvantaged Business Participation: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Evaluated Cost Discussion

The solicitation specified that award would be made to the offeror whose proposal conforms to the solicitation and is most advantageous to the Government, cost or other factors considered. For this solicitation, all evaluation factors other than cost or price when combined are significantly more important than cost and price. The following chart details the relevant proposed CPFF for the two offerors and the comparison to the Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) of \$ (b)(5).

Offeror	Initial Proposed CPFF	Revised Proposed CPFF	Final Revised Proposed CPFF	Relation to IGCE
Battelle Memorial	\$ (b)(4)		\$17,012,353.00	(b)(5)
(b)(4)				

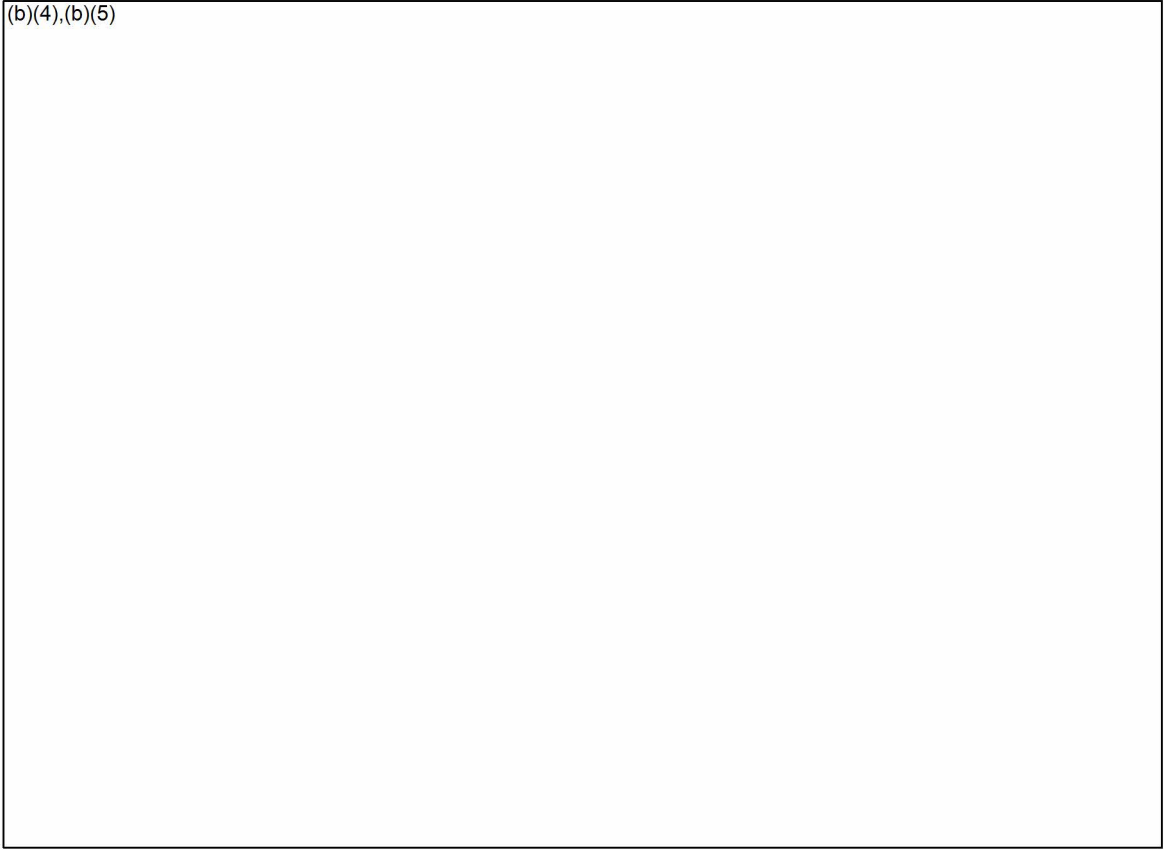
Battelle Memorial

The cost-plus-fixed fee proposed by Battelle Memorial was (b)(5)

(b)(4),(b)(5)

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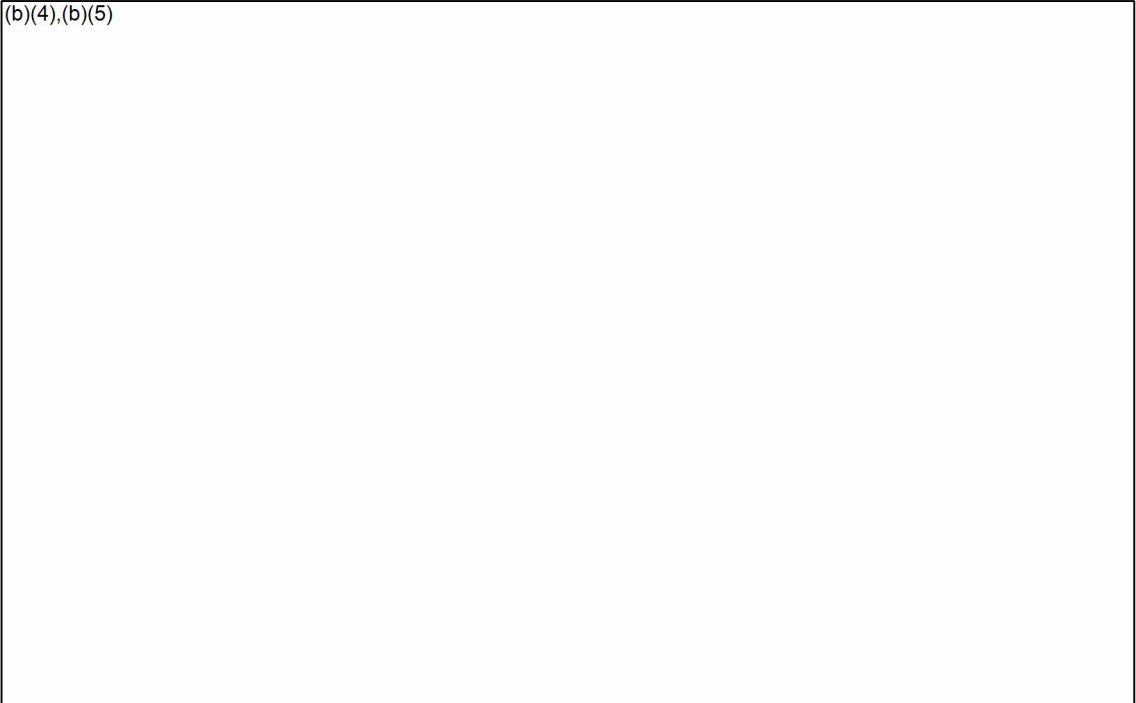
(b)(4),(b)(5)



(b)(4)



(b)(4),(b)(5)



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(b)(4),(b)(5)

In accordance with FAR 15.403-1, certified cost or pricing data was not required since adequate competition was expected. As required by the solicitation, the offerors submitted information other than cost or pricing data.

The offeror's proposed costs were thoroughly reviewed by the Contracting Officer and the Contract Specialist and were determined to be allowable and reasonable for this effort. Their costs are, therefore, considered fair and reasonable.

Other Factors for Consideration

(b)(5)

Summary

Battelle Memorial Institute's proposal received a total technical score of 100.00 points out of a possible 100 points. Battelle's cost proposal is significantly lower than the IGCE (b)(5).

(b)(4) Battelle Memorial Institute and

(b)(4),(b)(5)

(b)(5) Battelle Memorial Institute's proposal offers the best value to the Government without the need for tradeoffs as allowed in Section M, clause M.2, of the solicitation which states that "The Government will make award to the responsible offeror whose offer conforms to the solicitation and is most advantageous to the Government, cost or other factors considered. For this solicitation, all evaluation factors other than cost or price when combined are significantly more important than cost or price."

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Recommendation

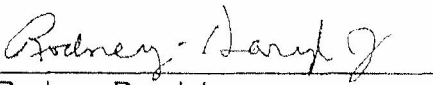
Based on the foregoing, it is hereby recommended that the following firm be selected for award of cost-plus-fixed fee Contract for "Ambient Air Monitoring and Quality Assurance Support": **Battelle Memorial Institute**. This is considered to be in the best interest of the Government.

Recommended:


Antonio L. Leathers
Contract Specialist

12/17/12
Date

Concurred:


Rodney-Daryl Jones
Contracting Officer

DEC 17 2012
Date

Approved:


McDonald Morrison
Source Selection Authority

12-17-12
Date